

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 SAM-01 DOTE-00 L-03 DRC-01 /085 W

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R 061736Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PARIS 3311

BRUSSELS FOR FAA

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR, UK

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. LE FIGARO OF FEB 6 REPORTS INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE MEETING UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S CHAIRMANSHIP IS SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 14 TO STUDY FUTURE OF CONCORDE, AIRBUS AND MERCURE PROGRAMS. BULK OF ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO CONCORDE.

2. ARTICLE SAYS THAT WHILE RECENT REPORT ON CONCORDE PROGRAM PREPARED FOR GOF BY RENE BLOCH REMAINS SECRET, IT IS POSSIBLE "TO HAVE

SOME IDEAS" AS TO ITS CONCLUSIONS. LE FIGARO NOTES THAT THERE IS QUESTION OF PROPOSING THREE IMPROVEMENTS TO CONCRDE. FIRST, RANGE WOULD BE EXTENDED (BY ONLY 300-400 KILOMETERS, HOWEVER) THROUGH ADDITIONAL FUEL CAPACITY WITHOUT REDUCTION IN PAYLOAD. SECOND, ENGINE THRUST WOULD BE INCREASED BY ABOUT 10 PERCENT TO PERMIT TAKEOFF WITH HIGHER LOAD (I.E., INCREASED FUEL CAPACITY) AND AT STEEPER RATE OF CLIMB IN EFFORT REDUCE NOISE PROBLEM. THIRD IMPROVEMENT, FLOWING FROM SECOND ABOVE, WOULD BE REDESIGNING OF WINGS. LE FIGARO ASSERTS THAT INCREASED FUEL CAPACITY COULD BE PROVIDED BEGINNING WITH

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TENTH PRODUCTION MODEL OF CONCORDE AND COULD BE ABSORBED IN COSTS AS

CURRENTLY PROJECTED. IMPROVED ENGINE PERFORMANCE AND REDESIGNING OF WING, HOWEVER, WOULD REQUIRE COMMITMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO CONCORDE PROGRAM BY FRENCH AND BRITISH. LE FIGARO COMMENTS THAT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER UK HAS REACHED SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS. AS CONCERNS "DISASTROUS" ARRANGEMENT FOR UK-FRENCH COOPERATION ON CONCORDE PROGRAM, LE FIGARO (OR IS IT THE BLOCH REPORT?) SPECULATES THAT PERHAPS AEROSPATIALE SHOULD BECOME PROJECT MANAGER FOR AIRFRAME AND ROLLS ROYCE

BECOME PROJECT MANAGER FOR ENGINES.

3. ELSEWHERE LE FIGARO REPORTS RECENT CHARGE MADE BY CGT METALWORKERS'

UNION THAT BLOCH REPORT IS BEING KEPT SECRET BECAUSE IT FAVORS ABANDONMENT OF PRESENT CONCORDE PROGRAM IN FAVOR OF DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW GENERATION SST UNDER US LEADERSHIP. CGT ACCUSES GOF OF HAVING CAPITULATED TO US PRESSURE AND DEMANDS INSTEAD ACCELERATION OF CONCORDE, AIRBUS AND MERCURE PROGRAMS.

4. DEFENSE MINISTER GALLEY, IN RECENT APPEARANCE BEFORE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADMITTED THAT PROSPECTS FOR FRENCH CIVIL AVIATION INDUSTRY ARE GLOOMY BECAUSE OF LACK OF MARKETS AND, AS RESULT, AEROSPATIALE AND OTHER CONSTRUCTORS ARE IN FOR HARD TIMES FINANCIALLY.

IRWIN.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT, CIVIL AVIATION, CONCORD, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: CONCORDE  
**TAGS:** ETRN, FR, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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